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REMARKS

This Response is being submitted in response to the Official Action dated 24 January 2006. Claims 1, 3, 6, 7 and 8 are amended, and claims 3-4 and 9-10 and 12 are canceled. Thus, claims 1-2, 5-8, 11 and 13-18 remain pending.

The Examiner rejected claim 1 as anticipated under U.S. Patent No. 5,978,493 to Kravitz et al (identification bracelet for child and guardian matching). Claim 2 was rejected as being unpatentable over the Kravitz et al. '493 patent in view of US Patent No. 6,034,605 to March (method for secure storage and broadcast of personal information during an emergency). The Examiner contends it would have been obvious to modify Kravitz et al. '493 to include the step of using fingerprint records for identifying lost individuals, disclosed in the March '605 patent. Claims 4, 5, 13, 14, and 16 were rejected as being unpatentable over Kravitz et al. '493 in view of March '605 and further in view of the Wills '398 application. As to claim 4, the Examiner contends it would have been obvious to include a public address notification system. It is with this last point in particular that the Applicant strongly disagrees.

As discussed during the interview with the undersigned last Wednesday, one of the core strengths of the present invention is the combination of information taken at registration, and the way it is later handled in case of a missing person. The registration stations take registration information including camera images, a fingerprint, and form-type identifying information.

In case of an event, the notification stations all display the images and powerhorn a public

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announcement to ensure that the public looks at the display. The fingerprint data is also readily accessible for authorities in case a child is not located. None of the cited references are at all concerned with the quality or effectiveness of the public announcement/display. Of the three, Kravitz et al. '493 and Wills '398 do not even make a public display, and March '605 uses a website. This is a far cry from the combined images and public announcements made in numerous locations as per the present invention. The Examiner's contention that it would have been obvious to make design changes to Kravitz et al. '493 in view of March '605 to result in a notification system capable of informing many people at a number of locations all over the world is misplaced because the novelty here lies in the quality and instantaneous public delivery of the broadcast information not the mere fact of the broadcast itself.

Claims 1 and 6 are herein amended to make these distinctions more apparent, now specifically reciting the information collected at registration and the type of display/announcement. As per claim 1, "upon receipt of said lost person notification, broadcasting said images and digital fingerprint to all of said plurality of reporting stations, displaying said images to the general public on the display of all of said reporting stations whilst simultaneously announcing an alert on the powerhorn in hope that said public will locate and return the lost person to said guardian or responsible person". None of the cited reference teach or suggest this, and claims 1 and 6 are patentably distinguished.

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Claims 2, 5, 7-8, 11 and 13-18 all depend from claims 1 and 6, respectively, and are likewise distinguished.

In view of the above, all pending claims 1-2, 5-8, 11 and 13-18 are believed to avoid all the objections/rejections set forth in the Official Action. The case should be in allowance. A Notice to this effect is respectfully requested, and the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 410.419.6899 to discuss any remaining issues.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Date April 24, 2006

Reg. No. 34,145